(d) To tap this potential in the country, including the North-East, fiscal and financial incentives are being provided. These include capital/interest subsidy, with 10 per cent of the GBS being earmarked for the North-East. Other incentives include accelerated depreciation, concessional duties, relief from taxes, and preferential tariff for grid power which is being given in most potential States. These apart, publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices is being created through print, postal and electronic media. District-level Advisory Committees have also been constituted in the States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Impact of power projects in the North East on environment

232. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power projects in the North East have been framed though the laid down procedures without ignoring environmental concerns; and

(b) whether the projections of power potential have been made by ignoring the delicate ecological balance of the North East?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) All power projects in the country including those in the North Eastern Region are conceived and their various parameters finalised only after detailed survey and investigation and necessary studies. Environmental concerns are given due consideration through Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and Environment Management Plans (EMPs) formulated at the time of preparation of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the project. The projects are sanctioned and construction of power projects commences only after obtaining the statutory environmental clearances from Central/State agencies.

(b) The projection of power potential has been made by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) broadly taking into account the known ecological features of the area. However, detailed studies are done at the time of preparation of the DPR and statutory environment and forests clearances obtained before commencement of construction.

Shortcomings of APDRP

233. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were significant deficiencies in the quality and reliability of power supply, which was targeted under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) whether the number of feeder trippings and duration of outage, as well the failure rate of distribution transformers was much higher than permissible in most States;

(c) whether there is lack of improvement in disposal of consumer complaints; and

(d) the measures taken to check the shortcomings of APDRP?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) was launched in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, improving quality of supply of power and

improving consumer satisfaction. The number of feeder trippings and duration of outage as well as failure rate of distribution transformers are quite high in many towns. The main reasons for these are old and overloaded distribution systems, lack of proper maintenance of distribution system, power shortages, no proper MIS etc.

(c) Section 42 of the Electricity Act 2003 provides for establishment of a forum for redressal of grievances of consumers and for the appointment of an Ombudsman. Further, State Power Utilities have been advised to establish consumer care centres for addressing consumer grievances/complaints. Utilities in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Assam, Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal have established consumer care centers in their select towns.

(d) The Government took up independent evaluation of APDRP through independent agencies, while recommending the continuance of APDRP beyond the Tenth Plan, the evaluators made certain suggestions for incorporating in the programme for achieving better results, the Utilities and the Planning Commission had also proposed certain modifications in the programme. Considering this, the Ministry of Power constituted a Task Force, headed by Shri P. Abraham, former Secretary, Government of India, to assess and analyze the current efforts, suggestions made by various agencies and to suggest restructuring of the programme to achieve the objectives of APDRP. The Task Force recommended the following:—

- Eligibility criteria may be made more stringent to push States towards reforms
- The assistance under the programme should focus mainly on activities which will help in quick reduction of AT&C loss and improvement in customer services. AT&C loss reduction target should be realistic depending on the current level of each utility.
- The focus of the programme may be on following activities.
    - o IT based energy accounting and auditing supported by GIS based o consumer indexing
    - o Spot billing, computerized billing and revenue collection
    - o Consumers care centers schemes for reducing technical loss
    - o Reduction in theft and pilferage
    - ° Better operation and monitoring of network
- Quality Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) should be prepared based on verifiable data.
- 10%-15% variation in quantity and price of components may be allowed within overall cost of the scheme.
- All projects may be implemented on turnkey basis except approved by Ministry of Power.
- Utilities & Ministry to closely monitor progress on implementation and Key Performance Indicators.

- Each Distribution Company should be considered separately for incentive. Ministry may evolve other methods for incentivizing good work. Incentive should be utilized for imporvement in the power sector only.

In view of the recommendations/suggestions of the various stakeholders on the implementation of APDRP, the programme is proposed to be continued with the revised terms and conditions during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to make it more effective.

Pilferage of power in Delhi

234. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 35 per cent of power distributed in Delhi is pilfered and Delhiites pay for this loss;

(b) whether the State loses nearly Rs. 3000 crore annually due to power thefts;

(c) if so, the measures taken to check power pilferagae; and

(d) whether power pilferage is high in industrial and commercial areas and if so, the number of power pilferers booked during the last three years and the quantum of money recovered from them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by Government of NCT of Delhi, the present Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses of the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) of Delhi are as under:-

SI. No.	Name of DISCOM	% AT&C loss (As on 31.03.2007)
1.	North Delhi Power Ltd. (NDPL)	23.54
2.	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL)	29.92
3.	BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL)	39.03

(c) The measures undertaken in Delhi to check power pilferage include:-

(i) Deployment of CISF personnel in Distribution Companies to help them in conduct of raids;

(ii) Setting up of six Special Courts in NCT of Delhi exclusively for trying cases of theft of electricity;

(iii) Making theft a cognizable offence through an amendment in the Electricity Act, 2003;

(iv) Implementation of various capital expenditure schemes like metering, introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS), Low Tension Aerial Bunched Cables (LT ABC);

(v) Aggressive anti-theft drive wherein enforcement raids are conducted regularly;

(vi) Improvement in collection efficiency, which also includes managerial improvements by way of better billing methods and collection of past arrears.